

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE  
WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP  
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004  
FAIRFIELD, IDAHO**

Vice-Chairman Vernon Ravenscroft called the meeting with the following in attendance. Vernon Ravenscroft, Jo Lowe, Joe Schwarzbach, Roger Parker, Bryan Ravenscroft, Carol Blackburn, Jerry Nance, Chuck Pentzer, Lynn Harmon, Bill Davis, Jack Straubhar, IDWR representatives Allen Merritt, Dave Blew, North Snake Ground Water, Jeff Martin, Water Master for 37 & 37M, Kevin Lakey, DEQ representatives Jennifer Claire and Sonny Buhidar. (This may be an incomplete list as the attendance roll was misplaced at the meeting. Daryle was in Ohio and Dana was in Florida)

**Minutes:** The following minutes were approved: Jo made the motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2004. Bryan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

**Secretarial Services:** The secretarial bill for Dana was presented for payment in the amount of \$ 184.20. Jo made the motion to pay the bill as presented. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

**Financial Report:** Vernon reported that as of March 31, 2004, the balance in the checking account was \$ 12,873.03.

**Data Entry:** Chuck said that Cathy Hurd is willing to go ahead with data entry and finish the project. Lynn felt that the Board had requested Chuck find out if Cathy was available to do the work and also an approximate time frame. Chuck estimated that it would take about \$ 1,200.00 to complete the work. Chuck has a concern that the information gathered could be lost if it is not electronically preserved.

The data entry covers Big Wood and Little Wood. This information would help Chuck with his implementations plans.

Motion was made by Roger to approve \$ 1,000.00 for data entry. Seconded by Carol. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sonny said a situation came up this year in the DEQ regional office. It involved the development of TMDL's and resulted in the creation of House Bill 544. Sonny distributed a letter, extending a special invitation to attend the next Mid-Snake Watershed Advisory Group meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare building in Twin Falls. The meeting is concerning House Bill 544, its subsequent veto and the concerns DEQ have with these implications. This is an excellent opportunity to express any questions, concerns or comments anyone may have in this regard.

The letter stated, "As a WAG, our efforts to effectively communicate and to continuously provide the most accurate information available, is successful in large part, due to the active participation of dedicated individuals such as you. We are all concerned and interested in water quality issues of southcentral Idaho and we appreciate your time and commitment to those issues. However, we are especially concerned and interested if communication between the Department and you has in any way deteriorated or become fractured for whatever reason. We won't always agree on all issues. Nevertheless, we should all agree that such disagreements could be handled amicably and without censure of each other".

If you have any questions or would like to provide information for the meeting, please contact Sonny at 736-2190 or email him at [bbuhidar@deq.state.id.us](mailto:bbuhidar@deq.state.id.us).

Sonny also made a power point presentation dated April 26, 2004. He wanted to make sure that the WAG understands the declaration of policy, what it is, the legislative intent, designation of director and what his process is in terms of water quality.

In the WAG/BAG law there are two sections, which discuss the declaration of policy.

**“WAG Education & Training” – Module 1:** It included the Duties and Responsibilities of WAGs in South-central Idaho and contained:

1. Declaration of Policy
2. Statement of Legislative Intent
3. Designation of Director.

**What is the Legal Authority:** - It starts with the law:

1. Clean Water Act
2. Idaho Water Quality Standards
3. Idaho Statutes

Title 39 Health & Safety, Chapter 36 Water Quality, commonly referred to as Idaho’s WAG/BAG Law.

**Declaration of Policy & Statement of Legislative Intent:** 1. The legislature, recognizing that surface water is one of the state’s most valuable natural resources, has approved the adoption of water quality standards and authorized the director of the department of environmental quality in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, to implement these standards.

2. Order to maintain and achieve existing and designated beneficial uses and to conform to the expressed intent of congress to control pollution of streams, lakes and other surface waters, the legislature declares that it is the purpose of this chapter to enhance and preserve the quality and value of the surface water resources of the state of Idaho, and to define the responsibilities of public agencies in the control, and monitoring of water pollution, and, through implementation of this chapter, enhance the state’s economic well-being.

3. In consequence of the benefits resulting to the public health, welfare and economy, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Idaho to protect this natural resource by monitoring and controlling water pollution; to support and aid technical and planning research leading to the control of water pollution, and to provide financial and technical assistance to municipalities, soil conservation districts and other agencies in the control of water pollution.

4. The director, in cooperation with such other agencies as may be appropriate, shall administer this chapter.

5. It is the intent of the legislature that the state of Idaho fully meet the goals and requirements of the federal clean water act and that the rules promulgated under this chapter not impose requirements beyond those of the federal clean water act.

**Declaration of Policy – Designation of Director:** 1. The legislature, recognizing that water is one (1) of the state’s most valuable natural resources, has adopted water quality and public drinking water standards and authorized the director of the department of environmental quality to implement these standards.

2. In order to provide and maintain maximum water quality in the state for domestic, industrial, agricultural (irrigation and stock watering), mining, manufacturing, electric power generation,

municipal, fish culture, artificial ground water recharge, transportation and recreational purposes and to provide safe drinking water to the public at the earliest possible date, and to conform to the expressed intent of congress to abate pollution of ground waters, streams and lakes and to provide safe drinking water to the public, the legislature declares the purpose of this chapter is to enhance and preserve the quality and value of the water resources of the state of Idaho and to assist in the prevention, control, abatement and monitoring of water pollution.

3. In consequence of the benefits resulting to the public health, welfare and economy it is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Idaho to protect this natural resource and to provide safe drinking water to the public by assisting in monitoring, preventing and controlling water pollution; to support and aid technical and planning research leading to the prevention and control of water pollution; to provide financial and technical assistance to municipalities and other agencies in the abatement and prevention of water pollution; and to provide financial and technical assistance to community water systems and nonprofit non-community water systems.

4. The director of the department of environmental quality shall administer this chapter and nothing herein shall be construed as impairing or in any manner affecting the statutory authority or jurisdiction of municipalities in providing domestic water, sewage collection and treatment.

(A complete copy of the report is available by contacting Dana)

**Other Business:** Jo requested purchasing stationary, with the WAG logo, so she can proceed with writing letters to landscapers, contractors, sprayers and residents along the upper part of the river (North of Magic) giving an outline of best management practices.

Jerry made the motion to approve the purchase for approximately \$ 65.00. Carol seconded the motion. Discussion: Bryan felt the sky in the logo should be bluer. Roger also questioned if the expenditure had to be voted on at 2 meetings. Vern felt this was not necessary for this particular expenditure. Lynn asked if the Board would have the opportunity to review the contents of the letter before it was sent. Jo said they would. She also has information from the University of Idaho on best management practices. She would like to include some basic water conservation information. Jo said she would consolidate the two sources and put it into a letter. Vernon asked for a unanimous consent for the purchase of stationary for approximately \$ 65.00 and Jo will send out a draft to Dana for distribution to the executive board for review. The vote was unanimous.

The May meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, the 25th at 7:30 P.M. in Carey. The June meeting will be held on the 22nd at 7:30 in Fairfield.

Where upon the meeting was adjourned.

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Daryle James, Chairman